

On some new *Carabidæ* from Port Darwin,

By WILLIAM MACLEAY, F.L.S.

By the Netherlands East Indian Company's steamer "William Mackinnon," which arrived here from Batavia about a week ago, I received from Mr. Spalding a large and valuable collection of Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fishes, Mollusks, Crustacea, Insects, and other animals, both terrestrial and marine, from Port Darwin, the capital of the South Australian Province of North Australia.

The collection is extremely interesting, both in a zoological and geographical point of view, and will probably form the subject of various Papers to be read before this Society.

I propose to undertake, on my own part, an account of the Fishes, Lizards, and Snakes, but want of time makes me limit myself in the present Paper to a short notice of the Coleoptera in the collection belonging to the Family *Carabidæ*. I select this Family, not only because it is to me the most interesting, but because it is of all the Coleoptera the best represented in the collection. There are 23 species of ground *Carabidæ* alone, a number most remarkable, when we consider the almost entire absence of them at Cape York and the Islands of Torres Straits.

But the chief attraction to me in this Port Darwin collection is that it makes me acquainted with several rare and beautiful things, described nearly 40 years ago, by Hope and Westwood as coming from Port Essington. The government station, formed there many years ago, has been long since abandoned, and there seemed very little probability of again coming across any of the very interesting Insects described from that locality. Port Darwin, however, though 150 miles south-west of the old settlement, seems to have a Fauna of a very similar character; at all events, I can recognise in the present collection some very remarkable and conspicuous insects, which I never thought it would be my good fortune to possess.

Among the *Carabidæ* I would particularize *Carenum sumptuosum*, Westwood, the most gorgeously beautiful of a very beautiful group

of the *Scaritidae*, and *Delinius Essingtoni* a very curious form of the *Feronidae* described by Westwood in the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of London for 1864, p. 3.

The following appear to me to be new :—

CARENUM DARWINIENSE.

This species belongs to the group of which *C. Spencei* is the type—a group now so numerous that it may well be formed into a separate genus, characterized by short moniliform antennæ, slightly securiform palpi, tridentate anterior tibiæ, and foveated elytra. This last character is so strongly marked in all of the species that I would suggest for the genus the name of *Laccopterum*.

I have only one specimen; it is seven lines long, of a subnitid coppery red on the elytra, thorax, and back part of the head, metallic green on the epipleuræ, and black everywhere else. The head is broad and flat, and the facial grooves are deep and curved outwards both before and behind. The thorax is a little broader than the head, and is broader than long, with the posterior angles rounded, and a short broad recurved lobe in the middle of the base; the median line and the depression near each posterior angle are well marked. The elytra are moderately convex and slightly narrower than the thorax, with seven punctured striæ on each elytron, and large foveæ on four alternate interstices, these foveæ are most numerous in the sutural, and least so in the fourth row, the other interstices are narrower and subcostate. There is a dense row of punctures on the lateral margin, and the epipleura, which is deep, is roughly punctured. The legs are moderately robust, and there are three teeth on the outside of the anterior tibiæ, the upper one small.

When I first saw this insect I fancied it might be the *C. Gemmatum* of Westwood, a species I had never seen, but which, like *C. Sumptuosum*, had been described as coming from Port Essington. I find, however, that beyond belonging to the same group there is little similarity between them.

CARENIDIUM SPALDINGII.

Fourteen lines long and of convex form. The head in front, the disk of the thorax, and a large patch in the centre of the elytra

are black, the remainder of the upper surface is of a golden green and very nitid, and the under surface is black with a tendency to piceous on the tarsi, antennæ, and palpi. The head is large and rather flat, the facial grooves are deep and diverge much behind, and the labrum is short, broad, crescent-shaped, and marked in front with six setigerous punctures. The thorax is slightly broader than the head, and much broader than long, broadly rounded at the sides and posterior angles, and truncate at the middle of the base, the median line is lightly marked, and the depressions near the posterior angles are rounded and shallow. The elytra are of an elongated oval form, scarcely so wide as the widest part of the thorax, and marked with seven shallow punctured striæ, and with a row of sub-distant larger punctures in each lateral margin. At the base of each elytron there is a depression marked with seven punctures in two obliquely transverse series—five in one and two in the other. The legs are rather slight for the genus. The fore tibiæ are armed externally with two strong teeth, the intermediate tibiæ are without external spine.

I have named this handsome species after the very excellent collector who discovered it—Mr. Edward Spalding.

CORONACANTHUS. New genus.

Mentum three lobed, the middle one shorter than the two others and bilobed at the apex, the sides of the lateral lobes converging towards the base.

Palpi, rather elongate—the maxillary with the terminal joint truncate, slightly trigonal, and of the same size as the third—the labial with the terminal joint truncate and trigonal.

Mandibles, rather short and stout, and slightly toothed in the middle.

Labrum as in *Feronia*.

Antennæ of moderate length, slender and filiform; the third joint very slightly longer than the others.

Labrum square; slightly emarginate in front.

Legs moderately robust; the fore tibiæ strong and armed on the inner apex, with a stout pointed curved spine, and with the emargination on the inner side rather small; three joints of the tarsi of the male dilated.

Body apterous, sub-elongate, and convex, separated from the thorax by a peduncle.

Prosternum, flat between the coxæ, extending a little backwards and without margin.

CORONACANTHUS SULCATUS.

Of rather elongate form, about ten lines in length, and of a nitid black colour, with the sides of the thorax and elytra golden green, and the antennæ, palpi, and tarsi piceous.

The head is smooth, without facial grooves, of moderate size and not narrowed into a neck behind. The thorax is rather longer than the width, rounded at the sides and base, and very deeply and largely impressed near the posterior angles, which have a broad recurved margin.

The elytra are each marked with three deep smooth striæ, the space between the first and second being twice the width of the other interspaces, rather convex, and having an impressed puncture on its outer side not far from the apex. There are two rows of large punctures on each lateral margin, the outer one not continuous to the apex.

I have received a number of specimens of this remarkable and beautiful insect from Port Darwin. It seems curious that a beetle, apparently so abundant, should have hitherto escaped observation, but I have searched in vain for any notice of it in any publication of recent date.

I have named the genus from the curved form of the spine at the inner apex of the fore tibiæ.

COPTOCARPUS PLANIPENNIS.

This insect very closely resembles *C. Riverinæ*, a species described by me a few years ago in Vol. II., p. 329 of the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of New South Wales. It

is, however, of a more elongate and flat form, less distinctly striated on the elytra, and much less spinose on the legs. The colour is black with the tarsi, antennæ, and palpi reddish; the length is seven lines; the head and thorax are without mark or impression of any kind—a faint median line on the thorax excepted; the elytra are very faintly striated; the scutellar stria is about three times the length of the scutellum and is very finely punctate, and there is an impressed puncture on the inside of the second interstice of each elytron just behind the middle; the fore tarsi of the male have the three first joints strongly dilated, the third joint being the longest; the hind tibiæ and tarsi are long and slender.

The other *Carabidæ* in the collection are *Catadromus Australis* a species seemingly universally distributed throughout New Holland. *Cratogaster sulcata* Blanch; two species of *Pheropsophus*, one of them probably new; four species of *Chlænius*, all well known; a *Pæcilus*; an *Omaseus*; and five *Harpali*, one of them perhaps, *H. interstitialis*, described by me from Port Denison many years ago, but seemingly a larger and more brilliant insect.

But I must postpone, from want of time, the identification and description of these and the many other interesting things in the collection until some future Meeting of the Society.

EXHIBITS.

The Secretary exhibited a photograph of an Australian Native belonging to a peculiar tribe, entirely destitute of hair, and of a bright copper color, from a district near the Balonne.
